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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, the Reverend Greg St. Cyr, of the Bay Area Community Church in Annapolis, MD.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray together.

God, I thank You for these men and women whom You have raised up to lead our Nation. Thank You for Your grace in their lives, for their gifts, for their talents, for their individual backgrounds, for their families, and for the States they represent. We acknowledge You as the Author and Sustainer of life. You are the God who holds us in the palm of Your hand, whose eye is always upon us, whose love is always with us.

We come before You now in need of You. You know all things. You know the present challenges we face, and You are intimately aware of our future. When King Solomon was newly crowned, he prayed to You asking that You would "Give Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people to discern good and evil (1 Kings 3:9)." That request was pleasing in Your sight and You blessed him with wisdom. We come with a similar prayer.

Grant us supernatural wisdom to accomplish Your will and vision for our Nation this day. I pray Your blessing on each Senator, that they would have an understanding heart of wisdom to serve Your purposes today. Grant them godly leadership, wisdom, and courage. I ask this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROBERTS). The distinguished majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today the Senate will immediately resume consideration of S. 1, the prescription drug benefits bill. We currently have 15 pending amendments from last week. As I have stated, these amendments are being reviewed, and we will begin the process of scheduling votes, as necessary, on some of these amendments. As previously announced, we will have a vote at 5:30 this evening on an amendment to S. 1. We will alert all Members shortly as to which of those amendments that will be. The managers will be discussing that shortly.

A number of Members have indicated they will be prepared to offer additional amendments during today's session. The two managers will be working with those Senators to set aside the pending amendments in order to consider further amendments over the course of the day. I am very pleased with what we accomplished last week, including last Friday, at which time we had a productive day in the offering and initial discussion of these amendments.

As we previously said, we will plan on completing action on this bill this week before the recess. We will have full days and, I am sure, late nights with votes until we complete action on this bill. We will complete this historic legislation prior to adjourning for the July Fourth recess. I do encourage all Members to prepare themselves for what will be a very busy and productive week. I do thank all Members in advance for their assistance this week

and in participating with the managers to bring this bill to closure.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND MEDICAL CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2003

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make improvements in the medicare program, to provide prescription drug coverage under the medicare program, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Bingaman amendment No. 933, to eliminate the application of an asset test for purposes of eligibility for premium and cost-sharing subsidies for low-income beneficiaries.

Graham (FL) amendment No. 956, to provide that an eligible beneficiary is not responsible for paying the applicable percent of the monthly national average premium while the beneficiary is in the coverage gap and to sunset the bill.

Kerry amendment No. 958, to increase the availability of discounted prescription drugs.

Lincoln modified amendment No. 934, to ensure coverage for syringes for the administration of insulin, and necessary medical supplies associated with the administration of insulin.

Lincoln amendment No. 935, to clarify the intent of Congress regarding an exception to the initial residency period for geriatric residency or fellowship programs.

Lincoln amendment No. 959, to establish a demonstration project for direct access to physical therapy services under the Medicare Program.

Baucus (for Jeffords) amendment No. 964, to include coverage for tobacco cessation products.

Baucus (for Jeffords) amendment No. 965, to establish a Council for Technology and Innovation.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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